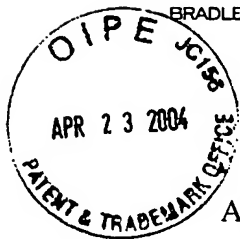


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April 23, 2004

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Application Serial Number: 10/685,914  
Filed: October 15, 2003  
Inventor: Copeland  
Group Art Unit: Not Yet Known  
Examiner: Not Yet Known  
Attorney Docket Number:

**Via Express Mail No. EV302016386US**

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Dear Sir:

The enclosed Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

X under 37 CFR 1.97(b), being before the mailing date of the first office action on the merits

\_\_\_\_\_ under 37 CFR 1.97(c) together with either a:  
Certification under 37 CFR 1.97(e), or  
a \$240.00 fee under 37 CFR 1.17(p), or  
(After the CFR 1.97(b) time period, but before final action or  
notice of allowance, whichever occurs first)

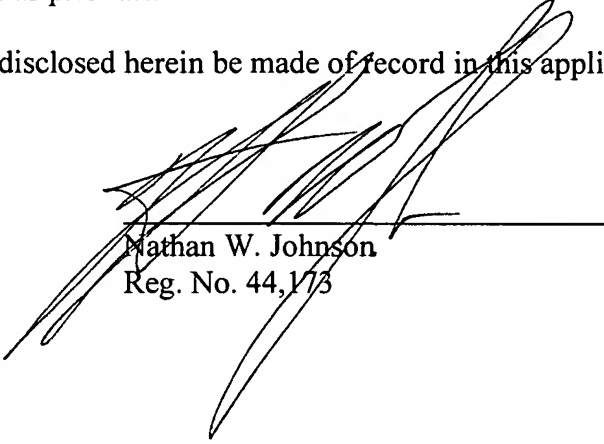
\_\_\_\_\_ under 37 CFR 1.97(d) together with a:  
Certification under 37 CFR 1.97(e), and  
a petition under 37 CFR 1.97(d)(2)(ii), and  
a \$130.00 petition fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(i)(1).  
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X Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO 1449-Information Disclosure Statement for which there may or may not be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR 1.56.

The filing of the IDS is not representation that the undersigned possesses any personal knowledge of the contents of each prior art reference listed, or that the documents are citable as prior art.

Applicant by submitting the above references taken alone or in combination neither represents nor admits that such references anticipate or render obvious the present invention. Consideration of the foregoing in relation to this application is respectfully requested. Applicant accordingly reserves the right to challenge any reference to the submitted and identified documents as prior art.

It is requested that the information disclosed herein be made of record in this application



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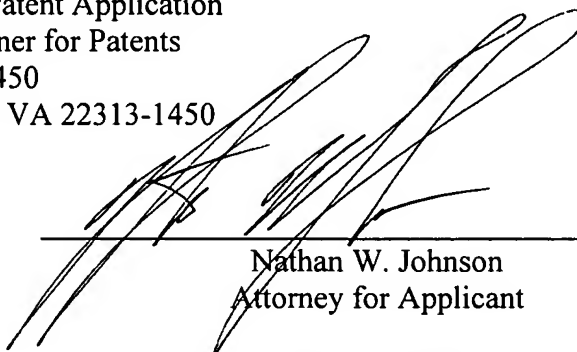


## CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

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on April 23, 2004.



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Nathan W. Johnson  
Attorney for Applicant

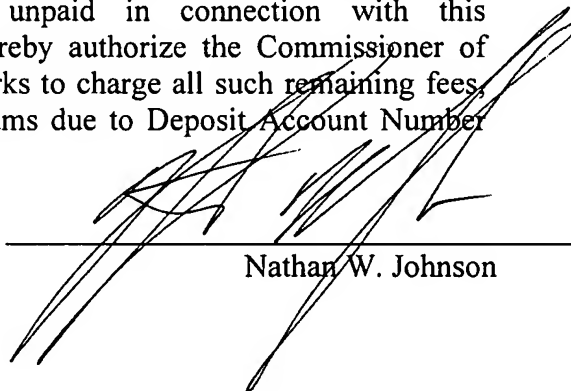
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Nathan W. Johnson



PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

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STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

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Sheet 1 of 2**Complete if Known**

Application Number	10/685,914
Filing Date	October 15, 2003
First Named Inventor	Copeland
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	

**U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		US- 784400	03-07-1905	F. F. Howe	
		US- 1818493	08-11-1931	A. T. McWane	
		US- 2201372	05-21-1940	E. A. Miller	
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		US- 4878698	11-07-1989	R. F. Gilchrist	
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		US- 5037144	08-06-1991	R. G. Peting	
		US- 5094467	03-10-1992	A. Lagabe	
		US- 5150929	09-29-1992	Cyril B. Greatorex	
		US- 5197768	03-30-1993	Conner	
		US- 5269569	12-14-1993	Weber et al.	
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		US- 5297826	03-29-1994	A. Percebois	
		US- 5332043	07-26-1994	Ferguson	

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> *Number <sup>4</sup> *Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
	N	JP-5229625-A	03-1977			

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

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**Complete if Known**Sheet 2 of 2

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		Number <sup>2</sup> -Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		US- 5335946	08-09-1994	L. G. Dent	
		US- 5340169	08-23-1994	K. Hoffman	
		US- 5398930	03-21-1995	T. D. Hunter	
		US- 5431453	07-11-1995	T. Yamashita	
		US- 5476290	12-19-1995	Bergmann et al.	
		US- 5476292	12-19-1995	Brian Harper	
		US- 5803513	09-08-1998	R. J. Richardson	
		US- Des. 398504	09-22-1998	T. Yamashita	
		US- 5992905	11-30-1999	H. Kennedy, Jr.	
		US- 6019396	02-01-2000	Saito et al.	
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		US- 6173993	01-16-2001	Shumard et al.	
		US- 6220635	04-24-2001	Vitel et al.	
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		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				

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